

Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
San Luis Valley Field Office
46525 Highway 114
Saguache, CO 81212**

OFFICE: San Luis Valley Field Office

PROJECT NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-F03-2013-0018 DN

CASEFILE: GR-055114

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: Range – Grazing Permit Renewal for the Triangle allotment #14410

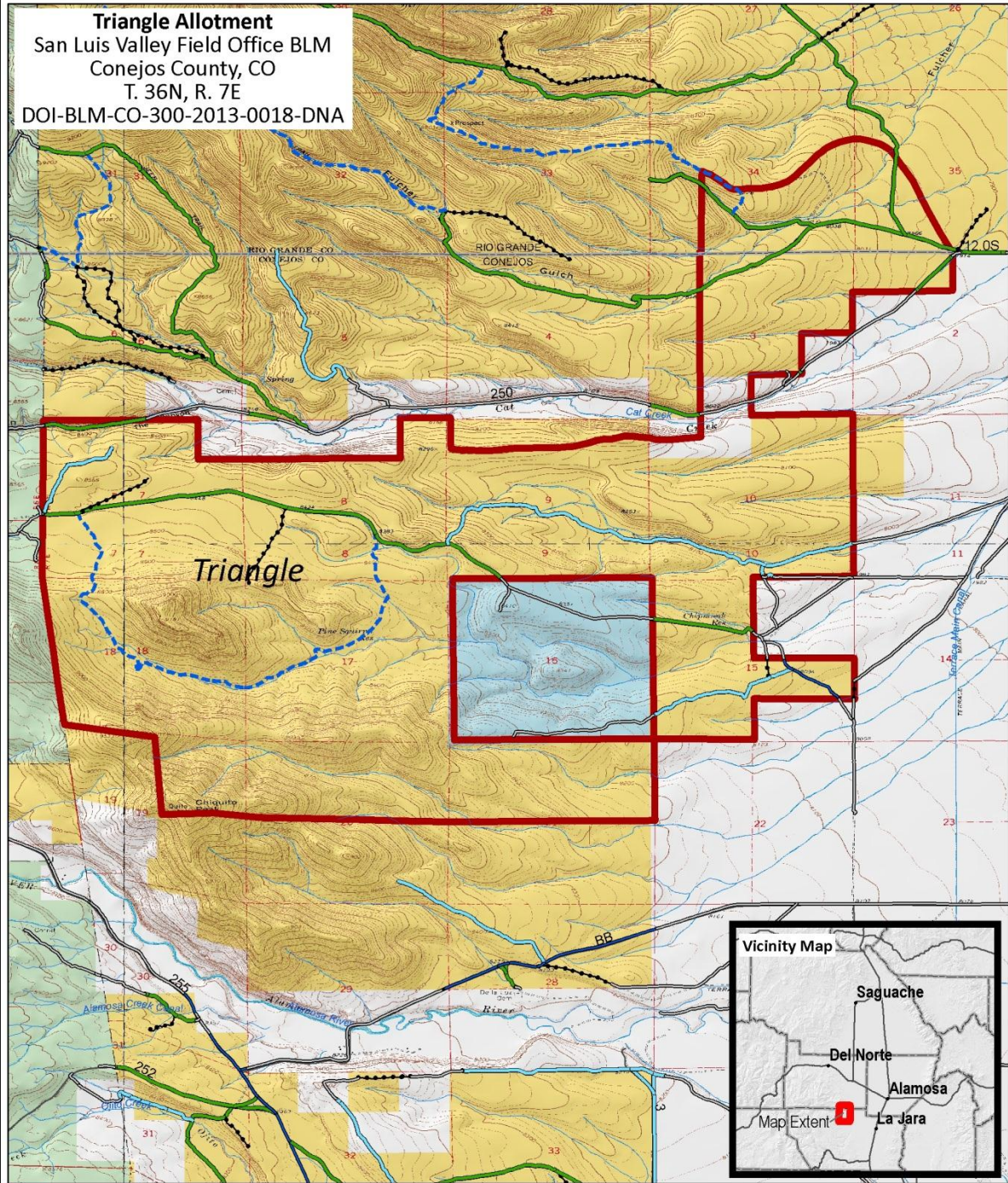
LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION: BLM lands in Conejos County, Triangle allotment: T36N, R7E, S. 2, 3, 7-11, 15 & 17-21. Rio Grande County T37N, R7E Sec. 34 & 35.

A. Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures

The proposed action is to renew the authorization (permit) via a 3 year base property lease agreement with Ernest Valdez of V Bar Ranches and Luis Schmidt in order to graze livestock on public lands included in the Triangle Allotment. The permit would be issued for three years as was previously done in the last base property lease agreement. Grazing use on the allotment will remain as previously scheduled. There will be no changes in livestock numbers, grazing dates, animal unit months (aums), or the terms and conditions on the grazing permit.

As per CFR 4130.3-3 the authorized officer may modify the grazing schedule, terms and conditions of the permits at any time during the term when the active use or related management practices are not meeting the land use plan, allotment management plan, activity plan, or management objectives.

Triangle Allotment
 San Luis Valley Field Office BLM
 Conejos County, CO
 T. 36N, R. 7E
 DOI-BLM-CO-300-2013-0018-DNA



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B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name SLA Resource Management Plan	Date Approved 12/18/1991
Other Document	Date Approved
Other Document	Date Approved

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

Term Permit Renewal for the Gato-Hutchinson and
Triangle allotments

CO-210-2001-0003

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g., biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, and monitoring report).

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

Yes. The previous EA analyzed grazing use and permit renewal for the same allotment. The Proposed Action is substantially the same action and at the same site specifically analyzed in the existing NEPA document. Grazing use on the allotment will remain as previously scheduled. There will be no changes in livestock numbers, grazing dates, animal use months (aums), nor the terms and conditions of the permit.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

Yes. The RMP and Gato-Hutchinson and Triangle allotment TPR EA considered a range of alternatives. The RMP consisted of the existing management alternative, the natural resource enhancement alternative, and the preferred alternative. The existing Gato-Hutchinson and Triangle allotment TPR EA continues to be appropriate for permit renewal for current conditions. The EA included and analyzed a proposed action alternative, a current grazing management alternative (No Action), an alternative that included allotment rest every third year and an alternative that included a conversion from sheep to cattle with a change in the season of

use to summer. No new environmental conditions or changes in resource values have arisen that would invalidate those alternatives analyzed.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

The information and circumstances surrounding the grazing permit in this renewal are unchanged from the previous analysis. No new evidence or circumstances have arisen that would change the analysis.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

Yes. There are no negative direct or indirect impacts associated with the proposed action. The impacts analyzed in the permit renewal EA for the Triangle allotment remain unchanged.

5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

Yes. Public scoping was conducted for the previous NEPA analysis. No new issues were brought forward as a result of this scoping.

E. Persons/Agencies /BLM Staff Consulted

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM REVIEW			
NAME	TITLE	AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	Initials/date
Alyssa Radcliff	Wildlife Biologist	Terrestrial Wildlife, T&E, Migratory Birds, Fisheries	ANR 9/23/2013
Melissa Shawcroft	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation	MS 09/14/2013
Eduardo Duran	NRS	Riparian, T&E species, Farmland	END 9/23/2013
Andrew Archuleta	Physical Scientist	Minerals, Paleontology, Waste Hazardous or Solid	ASA 10/28/2013
Negussie Tedela	Hydrologist	Hydrology, Water Quality/Rights, Soils, Air Quality	NT 09/23/2013
Sean Noonan	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers,	STN 9/17/13
Alyssa Radcliff	Invasive Plants Coordinator	Invasive Plants	ANR 9/23/2013
Martin Weimer	NEPA Coordinator	Environmental Justice, Noise, SocioEconomics	mw, 9/18/13
Jeff Brown	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	JGB 9/17/2013
Leon Montoya	Realty Specialist	Realty	LAM 9/16/13

Other Agency Represented:

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: Pursuant to BLM Instruction Memorandum Number CO-2002-029, SLVFO cultural resources staff conducted a literature review of previous inventories and sites recorded on the public land in the allotment area. Based on the information collected during the literature review, it was determined that no historic properties would be impacted by the proposed undertaking.

Native American Religious Concerns: The literature review indicated that no traditional cultural properties have been recorded within the allotment boundaries. Native American Tribal consultation has been completed for these allotments. There is no other known evidence that suggests the project area holds special significance for Native Americans. Therefore, it is unlikely that any traditional cultural properties or other sites of concern to the tribes will be affected by grazing.

Threatened and Endangered Species: There are no records of any new federally listed or BLM sensitive species within or near the project area since previous environmental assessment this document is tied to. The Proposed Action will not result in impacts to TES species. However, the proposed action may impact bighorn sheep that utilize the allotment. Impacts of domestic sheep grazing on bighorn sheep were analyzed in detail in the previous environmental assessments; however there is new information and technology that may change how this allotment would be managed in order to lessen impacts on bighorn sheep. A new EIS is being written for this allotment at this time and will replace the current EA based on this new information.

CONCLUSION

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Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.

SIGNATURE OF PROJECT LEAD: Melissa Shawcroft

SIGNATURE OF NEPA COORDINATOR: /s/ Martin Weimer

SIGNATURE OF THE RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:

/s/ Andrew Archuleta
Andrew Archuleta, Field Manager

DATE: 10/28/13

Note: The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.